



**INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES SECTION
Office of the Commissioner
The Commons, Bldg. C, Suite 100
4171 N. Mesa Street
El Paso, TX 79902**

For immediate release
November 18, 2005

**BIO-SECURITY AND NOGALES INTERNATIONAL
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
ON AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 29 PUBLIC MEETING**

Bio-security along the U.S.-Mexico border and progress on the upgrade of the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant will be discussed at the next public meeting of the Southeast Arizona Citizens' Forum (SACF) of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). The meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 29, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Arizona Department of Water Resources, 857 W. Bell Road, Suite 3 in Nogales, Arizona.

Cochise County livestock veterinarian Dr. Gary Thrasher will discuss the threat of natural, accidental, or intentional introduction of emerging or exotic animal diseases along the Arizona-Sonora border. Dr. Thrasher is concerned about the risks posted by stray livestock wandering at will across the border in both directions, contacting one herd after another along the way. Efforts to address this vulnerability by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, state animal health authorities, Border Patrol, Arizona Cattle Growers Association, border area ranchers, landowners, and veterinarians will be discussed. Some of those affected are interested in erecting a boundary fence for the purpose of animal disease control.

Hugh Holub, Special Projects Director and Utilities Director with the City of Nogales, Arizona will give an update on work to upgrade the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant, which treats sewage from the Cities of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora. The upgrade is designed to meet more stringent wastewater treatment standards.

The purpose of the forum is to facilitate the exchange of information between the USIBWC and members of the public about Commission activities in Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties, Arizona. The SACF is intended to bring together community members, enabling the early and continued two-way

flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the USIBWC and the public, environmentalists, government agencies, municipalities, and other interested parties. SACF Board members represent a variety of interests in Santa Cruz and Cochise Counties.

A complete agenda is attached. Members of the public who would like more information can call 520-281-1832.

For more information:

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SOUTHEAST ARIZONA CITIZENS' FORUM

Tuesday, November 29, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Arizona Department of Water Resources

857 W. Bell Road, Suite 3

Nogales, AZ

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions - John M. Light, USIBWC Project Manager, Nogales Field Office, Citizens' Forum Co-Chair
- Update on Status of Upgrade of the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant - Hugh Holub, Special Projects Director and Utilities Director, City of Nogales, AZ
- Border Fence Issues as they relate to Animal Disease Control- Dr. Gary Thrasher, Veterinarian, Cochise County.
- Public Comment
- Board Discussion

If you have a disability that you wish to self-identify confidentially that requires accommodation, please advise us ahead of time. For more information, call 520-281-1832.

Directions: I-19 to Mariposa Rd. West on Mariposa to 1st stop light (Industrial Park Rd). Turn left. Go approx. 2/10 of a mile and turn right on Bell Rd. Office is approx. 1/10 of a mile on the left in the 1st suite on the left side of the complex